(b) During a demonstration held in front of the Indian High Commis sion in London on 5th June, 1985, by Sikh organisations in Britain, 3 per sons burnt the Indian National flag.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Of the 3 persons who had burnt the Indian National Flag, 2 were let off by the British police as they were minors aged 14 and 8 years. The third person, Mr. Rupinder Singh Mangat, was charged with using insulting behaviour likely to cause a breach of peace. He was found guilty by a Magistrate Court in London on 1-7-85 and fined £50.

Issuance of passports in the country

1028. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issuance of passport in each passport office in the country is increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of passports issued during the last three years, yearwise; and

(d) the number of passports issued by passport office in Gujarat during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes Sir, The figures of passports issued which are tabulated monthly show an increase from January, 1985 onwards.

(b) Posts which were lying vacant in some passport offices as of December last year, have been filled, and thi$_s$ has led to increase in the output.

(c)	1982 . . .	15,49,131.
	1983 . . .	16,26,647.
	1984 . . .	14,15,634.
(d)	1982 . . .	74,915.
	1983 . . .	82,247.
	1984 . . .	90,028.

Survey conducted by the National remote sensing- agency to monitor deforestation

1029. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Remote Sensing Agency has conducted any survey of the land use in our country with a view to estimate and monitor deforestation and consequent expansion of waste land;

(b) if so, what is the extent of area under the (i) cultivated land (ii) desert land (iii) dry land, which could be used for dry crops and social forestry; and

(c) what are the major findings of such a survey regarding the land use pattern in the country and its variation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA)i ha$_s$ conducted surveys for various users in different parts of the country using satellite and aerial remote sensing data for a number of applications such as land use, ground water targetting, geology, snow cover, flood mapping etc.

2. As a part of a systematic exercise to extend the knowledge thus gained in the use of remote sensing data to nation-wide application, a survey of forest cover for the entire country by interpreting satellite imagery available for two periods 1972-75 and 1980-82, was also done. The comparison of the study results for the two periods show that tree covered areas in 1972-75 and 1980-82 are respectively 16.89% and 14.10 per cent of the total geographic area of the country. In order to stabilise the methodology for operational uses, comments have been received from the

concerned Central and State Government Departments/agencies and these maps are being improved upon. It may be noted that these maps are for addressing forest vegetative cover and are not for showing cultivated land, desert land and dry lands separately.

3. Mapping of wasteland for the entire country is being done by NRSA as a part of the work required for the National Wasteland Development Board. The survey results will attempt to delineate wasteland including undulating uplands which could be considered for dry crop and social forestry, and sandy areas including desert land.

Encouraging: rural sports

1030. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have for mulated any proposal to encourage rural sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Nehru Kendras in each State and Union Territory at present;

(d) whether Government have made a scheme to revamp the functioning of these kendras; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH); (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is already in operation *H* scheme of Rural Sports Tou-'1 T which tournaments are held at Block. District, State and National levels. Rural sports centres have also been established for promotion of rural sports. Besides, Nehru Yuvak Kendras also encourage sports activities. In addition, there is also a scheme of grants to State Govts. State Sports Councils under which financial assistance is extended to them to promote sports and games by developing infrastructural facilities, *inter alia,* in rural areas.

(c) to (e) 199 Nehru Yuvak Kendras are operating in the country. A Statewise list of the Kendras is attached. [See Appendix CXXXV, Annexure No. 26.] A new set of guidelines has been issued in this context laying stress on character building; development of culture and physical fitness. The financial allocation per Kendra has also been raised to Rs. 1.68 lakh from Rs. 1.22 lakh.

Allotment of shops in the shopping arcade at the Palam Airport Terminal

1031. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of shops construc ted in the shopping arcade of the Indira Gandhi Terminal at the Palam Airport;

(b) the manner in which these shops are proposed to be allotted and the date proposed for allotment;

(c) the different trades for which the shops have been ear-marked; and

(d) the revenue likeiy to be earned from these shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRl ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps to improve working conditions of Government employees

1032. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking for improvement of working conditions of the employees; and

(b) whether Government have decided to introduce leave encashment for the employees?